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(54) Title: SHORT INTERFERING RNAs HAVING A HAIRPIN STRUCTURE CONTAINING A NON-NUCLEOTIDE LOOP

(57) Abstract: This invention provides a short interfering hairpin RNA having the structure X<sub>1</sub>-L-X<sub>2</sub>, wherein X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> are nucleotide sequences having sufficient complementarity to one another to form a double-stranded stem hybrid and L is a loop region comprising a non-nucleotide linker molecule, wherein at least a portion of one of the nucleotide sequences located within the double-stranded stem is complementary to a sequence of said target RNA.